

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 46 of 1878.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th November 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	7th November 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishva Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ...	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān ...	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	.....	12th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	8th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	9th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	9th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	8th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore ...	250	
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	516	
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	11th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	9th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore ...	700	11th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	7th to 13th November 1878.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	9th to 15th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	9th and 11th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	1st November 1878.
37	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	9th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Masufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	13th ditto.
41	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	.....	7th and 14th November 1878.
PERSIAN.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	8th November 1878.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 7th, 1878.

RUSSIA, writes the *Bhārat Mitra*, after her recent victory over Turkey and the successive conquests of the weak and feeble *Khānates* of Central Asia, has assumed such an air of arrogance and is so impelled by greed that, regardless of her present condition, she is ready to put her hand into the blazing fire. But the influences by which she is being prompted in her policy will culminate in her total ruin. Had *Hindustan* done Russia any ill, there might have been a reasonable excuse for revenge by an invasion. The fact of Cyprus having been taken by the English should rather lead Russia to attack the English on their own soil through the Baltic. Instead of doing this, and showing her bravery where it could be properly met, Russia is trying to bring the feudatory Princes of her foe under her influence, and has led *Cábul* into its present position, and counselled the rejection of the English mission and the dissolution of the long-standing friendship subsisting between these two nations. Russia thinks that on her approach to India the *Mahrattas* and *Panjábis* will rally round her, and with this view she has herself kept on the background and pushed forward *Cábul* to fight the British lion. In India Russia will not succeed, though she has succeeded with the uncivilized *Cábulese*. Russia will fail to sever the Native Princes from the gratitude and attachment they owe to so benign a Government as that of the British. It behoves the English, therefore, to look upon the several *Rájas* and *Mahárájas* as friends, to consult with them in important Government affairs, permit them to be safeguards of the country in matters of defence against any foe, and with this object encourage them to keep their troops well drilled and disciplined. In proportion to the encouragement thus given will the Native Princes show their gratitude and be led to make further progress or advancement.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 7th, 1878.

2. The *Bhārat Mihir* undertakes to point out three reasons for the interruption in the friendly relations hitherto existing between England and *Cábul*:—
Cabul affairs.

First, the policy of the Government of India is a shifting and wavering one; secondly, there is a desire for unjust supremacy; and thirdly, the artifices of wily Russia. *Cábul*, though small, is not dependent or tributary, like *Gwálor*, *Cashmere*, &c. It places but very little reliance on the word of the English, who, by the way, have no right to compel the *Amír* into obedience to their wishes. The English Government was not prepared for the resolution of the *Amír* and the advanced state of *Cábul*, when the armed mission turned back disgraced in the sight of the world. We therefore say it was not right to have sent the mission. If the English nation desires to retain its majesty, dignity, and sovereignty in and over India, or amongst the sovereigns of Europe and its own feudatories here, we are of opinion that, lie the *casus belli* wherever it may, England must go to war with *Cábul*, notwithstanding that there is a party who, calling to memory the first *Afghán* campaign, dread a second one. The St. Petersburg papers go to show that England and Russia are becoming daily more opposed to each other. Russia is gradually approaching, and some day or other there will be a fierce contest between the powers, and this contest will be precipitated by Russia's seizure of *Balkh*, *Herat*, and *Merv*. England, however, is not idle. She is making vast preparations, and has already received many proffers of aid from her feudatories. Some of the Princes have even offered to go into the battle-field for her. Whatever other faults the people of India may have, a rebellious disposition is not one of them.

3. The attitude of the *Amir* of *Cábul* reminds the *Murshiddábád Pratinidhi* of the impudence of the frog that

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
November 8th, 1878.

The Cabul war.

attempted to strike the elephant's head with its foot. The *Amir* will reap the fruit of his conduct by losing his independence and being made subject to the all-powerful English Government. We cannot divine who or what has influenced the *Amir* so as to inflate him with pride. We believe it to be very unlikely, as rumour has it, that *Cábul* relies on assistance from Russia; for that power has just come out of a bloody and costly war, and we believe would not entangle itself in a hurry again. It would be well for the *Amir* to make matters up with the English, failing which he will be ruined.

4. The *Urdu Guide* remarks that the *Amir* must be taught a lesson, and that therefore fighting will be necessary.

URDU GUIDE,
November 9th, 1878.

The alleged Russo-Afghan alliance.

As to the cost to the Government of such a war, it does not matter, since we are not so poverty-stricken as Russia and *Afghánistán*. However, the money thus spent will not be lost, for in the event of a peace, our Government will be entitled to receive back all the money expended. If there be war, the money used in the preparation to meet it must be considered to have been well spent.

5. Referring to the terms of the *ultimatum* as published in the *London Times*, and to the accounts of the aid offered

SAHACHARA,
November 11th, 1878.

The Cabul war.

to the *Amir* by Russia, the *Sahachara* remarks, that if *Afghánistán* can but be made tributary to the British, Russia's further progress will be arrested, or else she will fight. If England permits troubles to arise in *Afghánistán* as they did at first in Serbia, the *prestige*, for which she seems so anxious, will depart altogether. It would be well, therefore, to inform Russia that if her officers are found fighting in the *Amir's* ranks, war with her will be the consequence. Though our Government is certain of victory, yet we pray that it may not listen to the words of a few ambitious officers, and that war may eventually be averted. The expense and cost would be vast. The natives are wholly opposed to the war on this account.

6. The English, remarks the *Sahachara*, seem to have a great dread of *bazár gup* and rumour, to which they attach undue importance. Government pay more

SAHACHARA.

English prestige.

heed to the small talk of the *gánjá* shop than to the counsels of the wise. Ask the low carter on the road, and he will tell you of the excellence of the present administration, notwithstanding its many faults. As to power, of what account is the *Amir* of *Cábul*, when the *Sultán* of Turkey has, as a matter of fact, become subservient to the English? The *Ali-masjid* affair has, through fear of *bazár gup*, been magnified into a great insult. We want to know if the great politicians of England are to be found in its taverns and public houses, which correspond to the *gánjá* and liquor shops here? This worthless *prestige* seems to be at the bottom of everything. None, except *gánjá* smokers, would consider the English lowered and disgraced, were all connection with the *Amir* to be dissolved and the *Ali-masjid* affair quite forgotten. *Prestige* and *bazár gup* are the two evil spirits which haunt our administration. No one has seen evil spirits: the ignorant man alone dreads them. Has not Government become just such a one?

7. The *Som Prakásha*, from what it knows of English law and policy, does not think that the English will depose the

SOM PRAKASH,
November 11th, 1878.

Will the English annex Cabul?

Amir of *Cábul* without sufficient reason, and annex his territories. If, however, these hardy, vigorous, and brave *Afgháns* become subject to the English, they will lose all their fine qualities, and *Cábul* will become like *Bengal*, a second hell. With the loss of independence health

will go, and the once thriving land will be invaded by epidemic diseases, as in the case of the *Panjáb*. Bengal also prior to the time of the English and it was first occupied by them, was peopled by a strong and powerful race, a hundredth part of whom are no more to be seen now. Public gymnastic and athletic exercises, stick and sword fighting, which in days of yore served to make the frame robust, have been peremptorily stopped now, and the already timid *Bengali* has been turned into an arrant coward. There is no doubt *Cábul* will lapse into a like condition if it becomes a dependent country, although we do not believe that the present preparations of the English are intended to deprive *Cábul* of its independence. The Press and Arms Acts, the prohibition against the transit of any arms and ammunition into Native States, the vast preparations which have been making everywhere for the past two years, have pointed to *Cábul*, which was to be saved from alliance with Russia. The *Amir's* position is a difficult one between two such great powers, and he cannot be blamed for having refused to receive an English Resident, or for having welcomed the Russian Envoy. We would consider him guilty if he joined Russia in seeking to injure England; but up to the present time he has done nothing of that kind. What then is his fault? And if he has none, is it proper that a generous-minded nation like the English should invade the country of an unoffending individual? We have no objection to the employment of all available means to secure the frontier and humble the pride of the European *Durjyodhana* (i.e. Russia), whose birth took place at the same time and under the same constellation as our Indian *Durjyodhana*, and who will destroy the independence of independent kings. The Editor had written thus far when he got a sight of the telegram announcing the intention of the Government of India, in case its *ultimatum* was refused, to enter *Afghánistán* by the *Khyber* and *Bolan* Passes. This determination shows that the English have lost their nobility of mind, their uprightness, their justice, and their character as defenders of the right, and have instead betaken themselves to selfishness. The *Amir* of *Cábul* is not a feudatory Prince, who must obey the behests of the English. We cannot see by what law or policy the *Amir* is to be deemed guilty. Let the Government of India define his fault publicly and plainly, and thus remove the stain which must otherwise attach to its administration. The announcement by the *London Times* of the resolve of the English to seize the southern part, whilst the Russians take the northern portion of *Afghánistán*, will only precipitate matters between these powers by ten years. Our hearts burn within us to see a benign Government like ours acting so unjustly towards the weak and powerless *Amir* of *Cábul*. It leads us to think of what *our* fate will be. The next thing may be that we shall be called upon to pay a portion of the cost.

SOM PRAKASH,
November 11th, 1878.

8. The *Som Prakasha* remarks, with reference to the question of the existing armaments of the Native Princes, that there are some Englishmen who are bent on the ruin of the native feudatory Princes, and have made various proposals as to the disposal of their forces, of whose strength the English have now come to be very much afraid. Such fears would turn out to be vain if the inhabitants of England but knew the real condition of the native Princes. They are altogether dependent, and are Princes only in name; in fact, they are nothing more than wealthy *zamindárs*. Had they been actually as powerful as they have been represented to be, would they have permitted the English to rule this land unmolested for the past century and a quarter? The *Rájputs* have totally decayed as a warlike race, and this may also be said of the other races. The *Times* seems alarmed. To allay its fears, we ask if it is likely that *Rájás* would attempt to injure the English now in the day of their power, who failed to do so at a time

when they were strong and the English were weak? As was the case with Rome, if these tributaries are weakened, the English will be enfeebled and ruined. The existence and advancement of the English depend on the existence of the native feudatories. Let the English say what they will, Russia will not be satisfied till she has had a fight with England some day or other. It is most likely that the native Princes will then be of assistance. It would be no good policy, therefore, to ruin and destroy these feudatories.

9. The *Bardwān Sanjivani*, writing of the proposal of the English papers to diminish the forces of the feudatory Princes as being a source of danger to the Government, would deprecate the idea of any such step being taken for the following reasons. The *Rājputs*, *Mahrattas*, *Sikhs*, *Pathāns*, &c., are warriors by profession and race, and to disband them would bode ill for the Empire; because they deem it degrading to take to agriculture or other peaceful pursuits, and would naturally become robbers and burglars. The best illustration of the intrinsic worth of the disciplined troops of the feudatories is furnished by the mutiny of 1857. Again, the sympathy of the native Princes for their rulers was seen when it became likely that England would join in the Russo-Turkish war, and, last of all, in the present *Afghān* crisis. The *Nizām* has placed not only his troops, but his treasury at the disposal of Government. To reduce the feudatory armies would show that Government did not place any confidence in the Native Princes. If the *Afghān* war once begins, it will not be ended in a hurry: it will necessitate a large military reserve, which, we have not the least doubt, will be forthcoming from the feudatory Princes.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
November 12th, 1878.

10. The English fleet has, says the *Behār Bandhu*, collected together in the *Persian Gulf*, and other vessels are about joining, because, perhaps, the *Sardārs* there contemplate mischief. Every preparation should be made in this locality, because it is the fittest and most convenient for starting an expedition against the *Shāh* and Russia, especially since there is a rumour in *Peshāwar* that the former and the *Amir* have entered into an alliance.

BEHAR BANDHU,
November 13th, 1878.

11. Referring to the question now being raised as to whether England or India, or both, proportionately or otherwise, should be liable for the cost of the impending *Afghān* war, the *Bhārat Mitra* would recommend that the point be settled by the law of 1858, section 55; whereby it is declared that, if the Queen engages in any war beyond the frontier, the cost thereof will *not* be charged to the Indian treasury, but be defrayed by the English Government. On the other hand, if *Hindustan* be attacked or invaded by a foreign foe, India must stand the cost. On this ground, England becomes liable for the cost of the present *Cābul* imbroglio, which, after all, is one nominally with the *Afghāns*, but really with Russia. *Cābul* has not the power to confront the English, but there is some one else pulling the wires behind the screens.

BHARAT MITRA,
November 14th, 1878.

Who should properly pay the expenses of the impending war with *Cābul*?
Should be liable for the cost of the impending *Afghān* war, the *Bhārat Mitra* would recommend that the point be settled by the law of 1858, section 55; whereby it is declared that, if the Queen engages in any war beyond the frontier, the cost thereof will *not* be charged to the Indian treasury, but be defrayed by the English Government. On the other hand, if *Hindustan* be attacked or invaded by a foreign foe, India must stand the cost. On this ground, England becomes liable for the cost of the present *Cābul* imbroglio, which, after all, is one nominally with the *Afghāns*, but really with Russia. *Cābul* has not the power to confront the English, but there is some one else pulling the wires behind the screens.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

12. The *Bhārat Mihir* would attribute the misappropriation of religious trusts and the general neglect of the worship of idols, for which provision has been made in the *devattar* mehals, &c., to the new bent which the mind of the rising generation of educated Hindus has received, and which betrays itself in utter disregard for the ancient religion. Act XIX of 1810 was a failure; the

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 7th, 1878.

Religious endowments.

Revenue Board, to which was entrusted the superintendence of religious trusts, could do nothing. The above Act is now about to be amended. Under the new law the connection of Government officials with the *devattar mehals* and temples will become firmer and closer. This will be like mixing poison with nectar, unless the Government provides against interference, by officials anxious to show their power and authority, with the religious rites and customs connected with idols or temples. This is a very serious matter; the law should not be passed hastily, at least not before the public have had ample time to consider it and give their opinion.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 7th, 1878.

13. The *Bhārat Mihir* begs to submit the following proposals for the consideration of the approaching Railway Conference:—

The Railway Conference.

1st.—Some means should be devised to mitigate the distress and inconvenience which the lower classes of passengers suffer, especially on occasion of Hindu festivals. In the rainy season the fourth class carriages on the Eastern Bengal line become regular pools, wherein fish may easily swim about. It must be remembered that the chief income is from the lower classes, and they should not be unfairly treated because they are poor.

2nd.—The *sāhibs* have well-furnished waiting-rooms, which are like paradise, but for the lower classes no proper arrangements have been made. Properly superintended refreshment rooms should be set apart for these latter.

3rd.—It would be well to appoint native female guards.

4th.—As respectable women are averse to going any way across to the public privies, water-closets should be made for them in the carriages.

5th.—There should be a separate carriage or compartment for native women.

6th.—Government itself made the proposal to have native guards.

7th.—There are great delay and mismanagement in the arrival and despatch of goods by railway.

8th.—Some kind of communication should exist between the passengers and the guard in case of any mishap or untoward occurrence in any carriage.

9th.—The railway police of several stations are in the habit of taking bribes from poor ignorant villagers, and are often seen ill-treating passengers.

10th.—The railway officials should be required to see that no carriage is made to receive more than its legitimate number of passengers.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The *Bhārat Mihir* says, that the English are acting with great caution and suspicion in all matters, and keeping up a sharp watch over the people within as well as without India. Our Government has committed three very grievous errors during this one current year: first, the "Arms Act," which we would not disapprove of on the whole, but that it is founded on a want of confidence in the native subjects of the Government; second, the "Newspaper Act," on which quite enough has already been written,—suffice it to say that Government took action on a lot of mis-translations, and has further stained its hitherto fair name and fame by making a distinction of colour; third, the proposal to diminish the number of troops under the native Princes. A proposal like this, at such a time, too, is not only unjust and inconsistent, but gives present reality to a danger which might only have loomed in the distant

The three great errors of Government during one year.

future. The *Nizám* or *Scindiah* is now of no consequence in the eyes of Government; yet there was a day when the English were supplicants for the *Nizám's* favour. Was not the loyalty of the feudatory Princes tested during the mutiny of 1858 and at the *Delhi Darbár*? The British Government represents the body, and these feudatory and tributary Princes the members of that body. If the body and members be strong and united, the entire body will thrive. We believe the Government has now come to understand its grievous error. The *Panjáb* and other chiefs have voluntarily come forward with proffers of assistance in the impending war, and with proposals personally to go into battle at the head of their troops. We have a hundred times before said, and repeat it now, that the people of India may have many faults, but disloyalty and sedition are not to be found amongst them.

15. The *Sulabha Samáchara* writes to know how it is that *Beni Gopal*, who embezzled the cash of the *Naddea Collectorate*, managed to secrete himself for nigh two years in the very place where the embezzlement had taken place, notwithstanding that a warrant was out for his arrest. Further, how is it that Government does not make proper inquiries into the matter? Who is to be responsible for the *lakhs* of rupees taken away? It is rumoured that Mr. Stevens will be held responsible for Rs. 50,000. Be that as it may, Government appears to be very lax in this matter.

16. The *Sulabha Samáchara* reports a meeting of nigh 2,000 *dhobies* (or washermen) from Calcutta and its vicinity, at which it was resolved that owing to the license tax and the high prices of things, clothes would henceforward be washed at Rs. 3 and not Rs. 2 a hundred pieces. On this the Editor remarks that the license tax was made for the trades and professions, but that in reality every one will be made to contribute towards it. In the present case the men are of one profession and race, and will have their own way, and every one must succumb.

17. The *Hindu Hitaishini* complains of the great distress occasioned in *Rangpur* and *Dinájpur* by the license tax, bribery being so prevalent that the rich escape and the poor suffer. A petty trader, whose income is, say, Rs. 8-8, who has a family of five or six people to support, and who is barely able to give them a meal a day, is obliged to pay. The Collector has, under the law, the power to make a remission, but he does not exercise it. The assessors spare no one. Only recently, some of them were sent to prison for taking bribes. The tobacco and sugarcane planters, who also prepare their produce for sale, are taxed at a high rate. Persons growing paddy and vegetables for home consumption and selling a portion, are put down as traders, and are taxed accordingly. Washermen and barbers are not exempted. The income tax was much better than the present license tax.

18. An anonymous correspondent, writing without date from *Krishnagar*, says that the license tax operations have commenced and the trades and professions are being much oppressed thereby. The *dhobies* (washermen) and barbers are not exempted. The income is fixed and the tax assessed on the number of souls constituting a man's family, and then on the ground that he is concealing his wealth. People liable to an assessment of Rs. 50 are put down at Rs. 20, whilst those who ought not to be taxed at all according to law, are assessed at Rs. 5. The correspondent not attributes these irregularities not so much to any wilful misconduct on the part of the native assessors as to the excessive

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 9th, 1878.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
November 9th, 1878.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
November 9th, 1878.

haste with which the assessments are made, and an unwillingness to believe the statements of the people to be taxed as to what their real incomes are. These incomes should be determined by a *pancháyat* consisting of the respectable men of the village.

SAHACHARA,
November 11th, 1878.

19. The *Sahachara* makes the following comments on the arrest of *Pánduráng Panditá* by the Bombay Commissioner of Police. Sir Stuart Hogg acted with

violence towards an Englishman during the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to India. This man was unable to take any action in the matter. In behaving, however, in a similar manner towards a respectable American, he found that it was not advisable to say anything to an individual of the race that preferred the *Alabama* claims. Sir Frank Souttar will not find it pleasant for himself, when he falls into the hands of an Italian or a German. Will any blame attach (to the press) if the acts of such officials are remonstrated against? We put this question to Sir Alexander Arbuthnot. Or are we bound to maintain that there is no official like Sir Frank Souttar?

SOM PRÁKASH,
November 11th, 1878.

20. The *Som Prákasha* translates an article from the *Hindu Patriot* of the 4th ultimo, supporting its views as necessary for India. to a Governor-General being no longer needed for India. The Editor of the vernacular paper goes on to remark:— A Governor-General, immediately on his arrival, finds himself plunged into the malarious atmosphere of old Indian officialdom; he is attacked by old epidemic ideas, and the result is bad. We believe the pure-minded Lord Lytton would never have thought of a Press Act if Sir Ashly Eden and the other old officials had not put it into his head. Another evil is that the Secretary of State, with a view to save the Government of India from discredit, is obliged to assent, against his better judgment, to requisitions made by the Governor-General at the instance of his councillors. The Government could be carried on well enough by means of the several Governors and Lieutenant-Governors.

SANGBAD PRABHAKAR,
November 11th, 1878.

21. In noticing the late *Abkárí* resolution, the *Sangbad Prabhákara* says that the people have been ruined by the consumption of spirituous liquors, notwithstanding all the progress and improvement in other matters. *Lakhs* of educated persons, old, young, and boys have thus met untimely deaths, many families have been ruined, and widows have been left to mourn the loss of their supporters. All this has arisen from the establishment of liquor shops in nigh every lane, with a view to collect a large *ábkarí* revenue. All these evils have come on India, but especially on Bengal, during the rule of a highly civilized Government. We have cried ever so long and much, but our rulers cannot part with their income. In time, drinking habits will become so confirmed that people will consume liquor like water. The whole theme of English-educated Bengalis is that, there can be no manhood without dram-drinking. Thus have many high and respectable men died. Carpenters, washermen, ironsmiths, potters, and such other people of the low classes spend their all in drink. Mr. Eden's recent resolution on *ábkarí* administration is an astonishing one; inasmuch as he therein states that the country must be increasing in wealth, since it can afford to spend so much on drink, even in times of famine. We say that this is rather a sign of Bengal's approaching ruin.

BEHAR BANDHU,
November 13th, 1878.

22. Writing of the Commission that recently sat at *Sonepore* to settle the rent disputes between landlord and tenant, the *Behár Bandhu* is of opinion that the members should have been persons well up in *zamindári* matters.

men accustomed to visit estates frequently and hold familiar intercourse with peasants; they should also have been proficient in matters concerning profit and loss, and well able to comprehend this and other intricate points in *zamin-dari* affairs,—not men who have never stirred out of their houses, and who require the assistance of an instructor. The condition of the *Behár* peasantry is very bad, dependent as the people are on the *zamindár*. It, therefore, behoves Government to be careful in watching the result of the contemplated arrangements. If there is interference, the kind feeling which the *zamindár* has now towards the ryot will be destroyed; and the case will then stand as between the pumpkin and the knife, the pumpkin suffering equally whether it fell on the knife or whether the knife fell on it. The *zamindár* can harass the tenant in various ways, but more especially in demanding rents on the due dates, or selling the land in default. Government, it is true, has accorded a permanent right by law, but we shall drift into the old state of things, when both landlord and tenant will be trodden under foot. We entreat Government to give heed to the proceedings of this Commission, and not consider as final any work which may have already been done by it. Rumour says that there are more English than *Hindustani* members on this Commission, whilst among the latter there is not a single peasant.

FAMINE.

23. The *Sahachara* describes severity of the distress in Eastern Bengal (the granary of the provinces) from scarcity of food. With the price of paddy daily rising, the middle classes of the people have got into debt, and are compelled to sell their metal pots and pans. We warn Government, because officials judging from outward appearances have discerned no famine. Natives, so long as they have their pots and pans, do not think of troubling any one. Government assistance may come too late. The license tax imposed to meet future famine expenses, is a great mistake. Heretofore the lower classes knew nothing of politics, a subject left entirely to the more respectable and enlightened of the people. The license tax, however, will touch all. The trades and professions, shop-keepers and labourers have raised their prices, and consequently the price of everything else has risen. Government will act wisely if it gives up the tax. The exportation of rice should be stopped. A king like *Akbar* would have stopped it, and so would the sovereigns of Europe. We fail to understand why Lord Lytton's government refuses to do this. Free trade seems to be the obstacle. Our country is being ruined. The people judge their rulers and administrators by the rate at which they can procure rice. It may be said that the peasants get a profit, but this is consumed in other dear articles. Even they admit that the times are hard. The country is not thriving, no one class of the people is happy, and there is no importation to relieve the pressure of high rates. Where then is the benefit of free trade? We are being sacrificed to custom and notions, because Mr. Cobden, who was a great man, said that free trade was good.

SAHACHARA,
November 11th, 1878.

24. The *Bardwan Sanjivani* informs its readers that agricultural operations have not been very favourable. The excessive fall of rain, which has not ceased up to the time of writing, bodes no good to the *hémanta* or (winter) crops. The *rabbi* crop too is not thriving. In addition to the above, this place was visited with a flight of locusts which lasted from the morning to 3 P.M. of the 10th ultimo.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
November 12th, 1878.

LOCAL.

SULABH SAMACHARA,
November 9th, 1878.

25. The *Sulabha Samachara* calls the attention of the police to a gang of *Muhammadan* swindlers located in Gyánrá-tolá in *Machhuá Bazár*, who take in people by pretending to pick up something wrapped in a piece of paper. The paper is opened, and what seems to be a bit of gold (really gilt) is found in it. This is disposed of to one of the crowd, who is a confederate. The experiment is repeated until some Bengali Babu gets victimized.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
November 9th, 1878.

26. A correspondent of the *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* thus notices what he calls the freaks of the Postal Department. Delivery peons and messengers of the Post Office being unable to deliver letters in proper time owing to the swampy ground over which they have to pass during wet weather, the Postmaster-General sanctioned Rs. 7-8 for boat hire. When the cost of a rower was asked for, it was ruled that the peon or messenger should row the boat himself, or pay a rower out of his own pocket. This is the same principle, observes the correspondent, as that on which the servants of *zamindárs* receive pay for only eleven months, the wages of the twelfth month being deducted on account of the *pujás* and family rites, &c., of the master's house. The Police Department, which brings in no income to Government, is allowed a boat in the rains, whilst the Postal Department, which is so profitable, is left to shift for itself. A good deal of money, however, can be spent on Post Office forms and books, which are constantly being changed, so that heaps of waste paper are to be seen lying useless in the Post Office; but poor Post Office peons are to be mulcted.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

27. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* trusts that the following remarks as to the bad state of the existing roads and the utter absence of much needed in the *Kushtea* sub-division will attract the attention of Mr. Anderson, the Magistrate, and lead to the old roads being put in proper order and to new ones being made, 1st, there is no road at all between the *Khoksá* railway station and *Ajudhya*. The absence of such a road is a sore inconvenience to the people round about and to *mahájans*, who have granaries and marts not far away. In the rains, when the fields are covered with water, the cattle suffer greatly, as no means of moving them from one place to another exists. A road constructed between the above two places would add much to the income of the railway. The *mahájans* would pay part of the cost and Government would not have to acquire much new land, as old bye-paths exist. 2nd, there is only one road within the limits of the *Daulatpur tháná*, and that runs from *Taráguli* to *Pratápur*: others are greatly needed, especially one from the *Dámukdiá* station to *Daulatpur*. We have two members of the Road Cess Committee here, but they take no interest in bringing the wants of the place to proper notice. Such men should be replaced by more active ones, chosen by our worthy Magistrate.

BEHAR BANDHU,
November 13th, 1878.

28. The *Behár Bandhu* remarks that the late fall of rain, though allaying the dust at the *Sonepore* Fair, injured the shopkeepers. The ferry arrangements at the *gháts* were altogether bad and inconvenient. Why did *Bábu Bihári Singh* take the contract of the *gháts* if he was unable to make proper arrangements?

MISCELLANEOUS.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
November 9th, 1878.

29. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* believes that the Bengalis will ere long be an extinct race. This will be owing to the epidemic diseases which are laying the province

waste, and also to the early age at which men and women become parents; the former at 16 and 17 years, and the latter at 12 and 13. Restrictive marriage laws ought to be made for this country. The people are neither long-lived nor healthy, owing to the scarcity of food and the anxiety connected with the support of growing families. These things must first be remedied. The price of food-grains must be reduced, and then the people will thrive.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 16th November 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

THE
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900

TO THE
HONORABLE
MEMBERS OF THE
NAVY

AND
THE
OFFICERS OF THE
NAVY

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THE
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